

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original): In a canopy structure which includes a plurality of posts, a plurality of cables supported on the posts, a flexible cover supported on the cables, and a sleeve on the cover extending along an eave of the structure, an improved eave construction comprising an elongate rod in the sleeve sufficiently stiff to normally extend in a substantially straight condition but flexing to bow downwardly when heavy materials are on the cover, thereby allowing the materials to slide off of the cover with the rod thereafter resuming a substantially straight condition.

2. (original): An eave construction as set forth in claim 1, including a pair of pipes in the sleeve receiving said rod at opposite end portions thereof.

3. (original): An eave construction as set forth in claim 2, including:
a bracket applied to said sleeve and to at least one of said pipes to allow the cover to be pulled tautly on the cables; and
a clamp on the bracket secured thereto and clamped to one of the cables to secure the cover to said one cable in a taut condition.

4. (original): An eave construction as set forth in claim 3, including:
a looped end portion of said one cable spaced outwardly from the sleeve; and
an eave cable extending through said looped end portion of said one cable.

5. (original): An eave construction as set forth in claim 1, including a securement securing an intermediate portion of said rod to said cover.

6. (original): An eave construction as set forth in claim 2, including a securement securing an intermediate portion of said rod to said cover to prevent the rod from sliding completely out of either pipe when the rod bows downwardly.

7. (original): An eave construction as set forth in claim 1, including:
a bend in an intermediate portion of said rod; and
stitching securing said bend to the cover.

8. (original): An eave construction as set forth in claim 1, including a slit in said sleeve at a preselected location to allow insertion of said rod into said sleeve.

9. (currently amended): An [cave] eave construction for a canopy structure having a plurality of posts, a plurality of cables supported on the posts, and a flexible cover supported on the cables, said eave construction comprising:

- a sleeve on an edge of the cover extending along an eave of the structure;
- a pair of pipes secured in said sleeve at selectively spaced locations therein; and
- an elongate rod in said sleeve having opposite end portions fitting slidably in said pipes, said rod being sufficiently stiff to normally extend in a substantially straight condition between said pipes but flexing downwardly in response to application of heavy materials to the cover to thereby allow the materials to slide off of the cover past the eave of the structure.

10. (original): An eave construction as set forth in claim 9, wherein:

- said cables include a plurality of generally parallel cover support cables having end portions adjacent to the eave of the structure;
- said cover includes a plurality of seams along which the cover support cables extend; and
- said pipes are located in said sleeve at adjacent seams.

11. (original): An eave construction as set forth in claim 10, including:

- a pair of brackets applied to said sleeve and to the respective pipes to allow the cover to be pulled tautly on a pair of the support cables which extend along the seams corresponding to the locations of said pipes; and
- a clamp on each bracket secured thereto and clamped to the corresponding support cable in said pair thereof to secure the cover to said pair of support cables in a taut condition.

12. (original): An eave construction as set forth in claim 11, including:

- a looped end portion of each support cable in said pair thereof spaced outwardly from said sleeve;

and

- an eave cable extending through said looped end portions.

13. (original): An eave construction as set forth in claim 9, wherein said rod is secured to the cover at a location intermediate said opposite end portions of the rod.

14. (original): An eave construction as set forth in claim 9, including a slit in said sleeve accommodating insertion of said rod into the sleeve.

15. (currently amended): An [cave] eave construction as set forth in claim 9, including:
a pair of brackets each having a barrel portion extending partially around said sleeve and the respective pipes therein to allow said brackets to pull the cover tautly on the cables; and
a clamp on each bracket adapted to clamp onto an adjacent cable to secure the cover thereto in a taut condition.

16. (original): A canopy structure for covering large surfaces such as parking lots, comprising:
a plurality of posts spaced apart from one another;
a plurality of cables including cables extending between the posts and a plurality of generally parallel cover support cables having end portions adjacent to an eave of the structure;
a flexible cover having a plurality of panels connected edge to edge at seams providing passages through which said support cables extend, said cover having an edge formed as a sleeve extending along the eave of the structure;
a plurality of hollow pipes in said sleeve, one pipe located adjacent to each seam; and
a plurality of elongate rods in said sleeve each extending between an adjacent pair of pipes to situate the rods generally end to end with the rods being slidable in the pipes, each rod being sufficiently stiff to normally maintain a substantially straight condition but flexing downwardly between the pipes when heavy material is loaded on the cover between the corresponding seams, thereby allowing the material to slide off of the cover with the rod thereafter resuming a substantially straight condition.

17. (original): A canopy structure as set forth in claim 16, including:
a bracket applied to said sleeve and to at least one of said pipes to allow the cover to be pulled tautly on the cables; and
a clamp on the bracket secured thereto and clamped to one of the cables to secure the cover to said one cable in a taut condition.

18. (original): A canopy structure as set forth in claim 17, including:
a looped end portion of said one cable spaced outwardly from the sleeve; and
an eave cable extending through said looped end portion of said one cable.

19. (original): A canopy structure as set forth in claim 16, including a slit in said sleeve adjacent each seam to allow insertion of said pipes and rods into the sleeve.

20. (original): A canopy structure for covering large surfaces such as parking lots, comprising:

- a plurality of posts spaced apart from one another;
- a plurality of cables including cables supported on said posts and a plurality of generally parallel cover support cables having end portions adjacent an eave of the canopy structure;
- a flexible cover supported on said cover support cables and having a sleeve extending generally along said eave;
- an eave structure in said sleeve providing rigidity thereto;
- a plurality of brackets spaced apart along the eave, each bracket having a barrel portion extending partially around said sleeve and receiving said eave structure in the barrel so that pulling on the brackets pulls the cover tautly on said support cables; and
- a clamp on each bracket clamped onto an adjacent support cable to secure the cover thereto in a taut condition.

21. (new): An eave construction as set forth in claim 1, wherein the heavy materials comprise snow.

22. (new): An eave construction as set forth in claim 1, wherein the heavy materials comprise ice.

23. (new): A canopy structure comprising:
a frame;
a canopy disposed on said frame; and
a load response assembly responding to a load disposed on said canopy and discharging the load from said canopy.

24. (new): The canopy structure of claim 23 wherein said load response assembly is deformable in response to the load when the load is disposed on said canopy.

25. (new): The canopy structure of claim 24 wherein said load response assembly is restorable to an original configuration after discharge of the load from said canopy.

26. (new): The canopy structure of claim 23 wherein said load response assembly comprises an eave construction.

27. (new): The canopy structure of claim 23 wherein said canopy comprises a flexible cover.

28. (new): The canopy structure of claim 26 wherein said eave construction comprises a rod disposed in a sleeve.

29. (new): The canopy structure of claim 28 wherein said rod is sufficiently stiff to extend in a substantially straight condition.

30. (new): The canopy structure of claim 28 wherein said rod is flexible.

31. (new): The canopy structure of claim 30 wherein said flexible rod bows when the load is disposed on said canopy.

32. (new): The canopy structure of claim 30 wherein said rod is deformable under the load so as to alleviate formation of at least one sagging area in said canopy.

33. (new): The canopy structure of claim 32 wherein the deformation of said rod forms a chute contiguous with said at least one sagging area.

34. (new): The canopy structure of claim 33 wherein said chute provides a path for the load to discharge from said canopy.

35. (new): The canopy structure of claim 30 wherein said rod returns to a substantially straight condition after the load is discharged from said canopy.

36. (new): The canopy structure of claim 28 wherein said sleeve is disposed on said canopy extending along said eave construction.

37. (new): The canopy structure of claim 36 wherein said eave construction comprises at least one receptacle to receive said rod.

38. (new): The canopy structure of claim 37 wherein said at least one receptacle is a pipe.
39. (new): The canopy structure of claim 37 wherein said at least one receptacle is disposed in said sleeve.
40. (new): The canopy structure of claim 37 wherein said at least one receptacle receives said rod at opposite ends.
41. (new): The canopy structure of claim 37 wherein said eave construction comprises a securement securing an intermediate portion of said rod to said canopy.
42. (new): The canopy structure of claim 41 wherein said securement prevents said rod from sliding completely out of said at least one receptacle.
43. (new): The canopy structure of claim 41 wherein said securement comprises a bend in said intermediate portion of said rod.
44. (new): The canopy structure of claim 23 wherein the load comprises a heavy material.
45. (new): The canopy structure of claim 23 wherein the load comprises snow.
46. (new): The canopy structure of claim 23 wherein the load comprises ice.
47. (new): The canopy structure of claim 23 wherein the load comprises an object.
48. (new): The canopy structure of claim 23 comprising a tent.
49. (new): The canopy structure of claim 23 comprising a support on at least two sides.
50. (new): The canopy structure of claim 49 wherein said support comprises at least one post.
51. (new): The canopy structure of claim 49 wherein said support comprises at least one

pole.

52. (new): The canopy structure of claim 49 wherein said support comprises at least one cable.

53. (new): The canopy structure of claim 23 wherein said frame is internal to said canopy structure.

54. (new): The canopy structure of claim 23 wherein said frame comprises at least one element external to said canopy structure.

55. (new): The canopy structure of claim 23 wherein said frame is external to said canopy structure.

56. (new): The canopy structure of claim 23 wherein said frame comprises at least one post.

57. (new): The canopy structure of claim 23 wherein said frame comprises at least one pole.

58. (new): The canopy structure of claim 23 wherein said frame comprises at least one cable.

59. (new): A canopy structure comprising:
a frame;
a canopy disposed on said frame; and
a rod and sleeve assembly responding to a load disposed on said canopy and discharging the load from said canopy and returning to an original configuration after the load is discharged from said canopy.

60. (new): The canopy structure of claim 59 wherein said canopy comprises a flexible cover.

61. (new): The canopy structure of claim 59 wherein said rod is sufficiently stiff to extend in a substantially straight condition.

62. (new): The canopy structure of claim 59 wherein said rod is flexible.

63. (new): The canopy structure of claim 62 wherein said flexible rod bows when the load is disposed on said canopy.

64. (new): The canopy structure of claim 62 wherein said rod is deformable under the load so as to alleviate formation of at least one sagging area in said canopy.

65. (new): The canopy structure of claim 64 wherein the deformation of said rod forms a chute contiguous with said at least one sagging area.

66. (new): The canopy structure of claim 65 wherein said chute provides a path for the load to discharge from said canopy.

67. (new): The canopy structure of claim 62 wherein said rod returns to a substantially straight condition after the load is discharged from said canopy.

68. (new): The canopy structure of claim 59 wherein said rod and sleeve assembly is disposed on said canopy extending along an eave of said canopy structure.

69. (new): The canopy structure of claim 68 wherein said rod and sleeve assembly comprises at least one receptacle to receive said rod.

70. (new): The canopy structure of claim 69 wherein said at least one receptacle is a pipe.

71. (new): The canopy structure of claim 69 wherein said at least one receptacle is disposed in said rod and sleeve assembly.

72. (new): The canopy structure of claim 69 wherein said at least one receptacle receives said rod at opposite ends.

73. (new): The canopy structure of claim 69 wherein said rod and sleeve assembly comprises a securement securing an intermediate portion of said rod to said canopy.

74. (new): The canopy structure of claim 73 wherein said securement prevents said rod from

sliding completely out of said at least one receptacle.

75. (new): The canopy structure of claim 73 wherein said securement comprises a bend in said intermediate portion of said rod.

76. (new): The canopy structure of claim 59 wherein the load comprises a heavy material.

77. (new): The canopy structure of claim 59 wherein the load comprises snow.

78. (new): The canopy structure of claim 59 wherein the load comprises ice.

79. (new): The canopy structure of claim 59 wherein the load comprises an object.

80. (new): The canopy structure of claim 59 comprising a tent.

81. (new): The canopy structure of claim 59 comprising a support on at least two sides.

82. (new): The canopy structure of claim 81 wherein said support comprises at least one post.

83. (new): The canopy structure of claim 81 wherein said support comprises at least one pole.

84. (new): The canopy structure of claim 81 wherein said support comprises at least one cable.

85. (new): The canopy structure of claim 59 wherein said frame is internal to said canopy structure.

86. (new): The canopy structure of claim 59 wherein said frame comprises at least one element external to said canopy structure.

87. (new): The canopy structure of claim 59 wherein said frame is external to said canopy structure.

88. (new): The canopy structure of claim 59 wherein said frame comprises at least one post.
89. (new): The canopy structure of claim 59 wherein said frame comprises at least one pole.
90. (new): The canopy structure of claim 59 wherein said frame comprises at least one cable.
91. (new): A canopy structure comprising:
a support on at least two sides;
a frame;
a canopy disposed on said frame; and
a rod and sleeve assembly responding to a load disposed on said canopy and discharging the load from said canopy and returning to an original configuration after the load is discharged from said canopy.
92. (new): The canopy structure of claim 91 wherein said canopy comprises a flexible cover.
93. (new): The canopy structure of claim 91 wherein said rod is sufficiently stiff to extend in a substantially straight condition.
94. (new): The canopy structure of claim 91 wherein said rod is flexible.
95. (new): The canopy structure of claim 94 wherein said flexible rod bows when the load is disposed on said canopy.
96. (new): The canopy structure of claim 94 wherein said rod is deformable under the load so as to alleviate formation of at least one sagging area in said canopy.
97. (new): The canopy structure of claim 96 wherein the deformation of said rod forms a chute contiguous with said at least one sagging area.
98. (new): The canopy structure of claim 97 wherein said chute provides a path for the load to discharge from said canopy.

99. (new): The canopy structure of claim 94 wherein said rod returns to a substantially straight condition after the load is discharged from said canopy.

100. (new): The canopy structure of claim 91 wherein said rod and sleeve assembly is disposed on said canopy extending along an eave of said canopy structure.

101. (new): The canopy structure of claim 100 wherein said rod and sleeve assembly comprises at least one receptacle to receive said rod.

102. (new): The canopy structure of claim 101 wherein said at least one receptacle is a pipe.

103. (new): The canopy structure of claim 101 wherein said at least one receptacle is disposed in said rod and sleeve assembly.

104. (new): The canopy structure of claim 101 wherein said at least one receptacle receives said rod at opposite ends.

105. (new): The canopy structure of claim 101 wherein said rod and sleeve assembly comprises a securement securing an intermediate portion of said rod to said canopy.

106. (new): The canopy structure of claim 105 wherein said securement prevents said rod from sliding completely out of said at least one receptacle.

107. (new): The canopy structure of claim 105 wherein said securement comprises a bend in said intermediate portion of said rod.

108. (new): The canopy structure of claim 91 wherein the load comprises a heavy material.

109. (new): The canopy structure of claim 91 wherein the load comprises snow.

110. (new): The canopy structure of claim 91 wherein the load comprises ice.

111. (new): The canopy structure of claim 91 wherein the load comprises an object.

112. (new): The canopy structure of claim 91 comprising a tent.
113. (new): The canopy structure of claim 91 wherein said support comprises at least one post.
114. (new): The canopy structure of claim 91 wherein said support comprises at least one pole.
115. (new): The canopy structure of claim 91 wherein said support comprises at least one cable.
116. (new): The canopy structure of claim 91 wherein said frame is internal to said canopy structure.
117. (new): The canopy structure of claim 91 wherein said frame comprises at least one element external to said canopy structure.
118. (new): The canopy structure of claim 91 wherein said frame is external to said canopy structure.
119. (new): The canopy structure of claim 91 wherein said frame comprises at least one post.
120. (new): The canopy structure of claim 91 wherein said frame comprises at least one pole.
121. (new): The canopy structure of claim 91 wherein said frame comprises at least one cable.
122. (new): A method for discharging a load from a canopy structure comprising the steps of: providing a canopy structure comprising a frame, a canopy, and a load response assembly; receiving a load on the canopy; and discharging the load from the canopy via the load response assembly which responds to the load and then enables discharge of the load from the canopy.
123. (new): The method of claim 122 further comprising the step of deforming the load

response assembly in response to the load on the canopy structure.

124. (new): The method of claim 123 wherein the step of providing the load response assembly comprises providing a rod and sleeve assembly, wherein a rod slides within a sleeve.

125. (new): The method of claim 124 wherein the step of deforming the load response assembly comprises bending the rod.

126. (new): The method of claim 122 wherein the step of discharging the load from the canopy comprises alleviating formation of at least one sagging area in the canopy.

127. (new): The method of claim 126 wherein the step of discharging the load from the canopy comprises bending the rod and forming a chute contiguous with at least one sagging area in the canopy.

128. (new): The method of claim 127 wherein the step of discharging the load from the canopy comprises providing a path for the load to discharge from the canopy.

129. (new): The method of claim 123 further comprising the step of restoring the load response assembly to an initial configuration after discharging the load from the canopy structure.

130. (new): The method of claim 125 further comprising the step of returning the rod to a substantially straight condition.

131. (new): The method of claim 124 wherein the step of providing a rod and sleeve assembly comprises disposing the rod and sleeve assembly along an eave of the canopy structure.

132. (new): The method of claim 124 wherein the step of providing a rod and sleeve assembly comprises disposing at least one receptacle in the sleeve to receive the rod.

133. (new): The method of claim 124 wherein the step of providing a rod and sleeve assembly comprises securing an intermediate portion of the rod to the canopy.

134. (new): The method of claim 122 wherein the step of providing a canopy structure comprises supporting the canopy structure on at least two sides.